FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALE IRO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Compensation to Bhopal Gas Victims

3874. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons identified as real claimants for compensation due to gas leak disaster in Bhopal;

(b) what is the total amount of compensation payable to victims of this disaster;

(c) the amount already paid to these victims; and

(d) whether any time limit has recently been fixed to complete the final payment to these victims ; if so, the details there of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALE-IRO) : (a) The number of real claimants can be specified only after the adjudication of all the claims. Out of about 6.12 lac claims filed, the number of claims settled an on 31-3-94 is 46783 and out of these, awards have been given in 41791 cases.

(b) Around Rs. 1600 crores are presently available for payment of compensation.

(c) The total amount of awards passed as on 31-3-94 is Rs. 155.90 crores.

(d) No time limit has been fixed.

Favours to M/s. Glaxo, M/s. Hoechst and other companies

3875. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to UnStarred Questions 3034 and 3038 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 1994 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has been showing favours to M/S. Glaxo, M/s. Hoechst and certain other companies in the matter of pricing as well as keeping their drugs outside price control;

(b) what are the names of formulations of these companies which are outside price control and what was the sales turnover of each per annum during the last three years; and

(c) what are the names of producers of Ranitidine and what is the price being charged by each ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTLIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALE-IRO) : (a) and, (b) No. Sir. The prices of drugs are fixed/revised in accordance with the provisions of DPCO, 1987. The inclusion/exclusion of drugs for price control is not related to the companies manufacturing particular drugs.

(c) The price of bulk drug Ranitidine has been notified as Rs. 1835 per kg. on March 16, 1994 which is applicable for all the manufacturers of this bulk drug.

Reducing Prices of Major Drugs

3876. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that major drugs are costlier in India and are generally out of reach of the common man; and

(b) if so, what effective steps Government propose to take to make them available at cheap rates and also against inflatory tendencies on drugs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALE-IRO) : (a) and (b) The objectives of the Drug Policy are to ensure abundant avai-ability of essential life-saving and prophylactic medicines of good quality at reasonable prices. To ensure these objectives, the prices of selected medicines are regulated in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 1987.

Passing on the excise duty concessions of drugs and cosmetics to consumers

3877. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drugs and cosmetics industries have failed to pass down the excise duty concessions granted in 1993-94 to the consumers ; if so, to what extent ; and

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALE-IRO) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. In the case of formulations based on the scheduled bulk drugs under DPCO, 1987 the prices were revised taking into account the effective rate of excise duty for the year 1993-94. For the formulations based on bulk drug outside price control, to the extent infor-mation is available from the industry asso-ciations, the manufacturers, had passed, on the benefit to the consumers in certain case*.